

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM FOR THE BLIND

(TC-98-06-26-9-RG)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executing agencies:	Federación Argentina de Instituciones de Ciegos y Amblíopes [Argentine Federation of Institutions for the Blind and Visually Impaired] (FAICA); Unión Nacional de Instituciones Tiflológicas de Chile [National Union of Typhology ¹ Institutions of Chile] (UNITCH); and Fundación Braille del Uruguay [Braille Foundation of Uruguay] (FBU).								
Objectives:	The general objective of this program is to help the blind in Argentina, Chile and Uruguay to find jobs. The specific objective is to improve their employability and productivity by offering them training and by strengthening the participating organizations of the blind.								
Financing:	<table> <tr> <td>MIF:</td><td>US\$1,400,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>FOAL:²</td><td>US\$ 750,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>National organizations:</td><td><u>US\$ 210,000</u></td></tr> <tr> <td>Total:</td><td>US\$2,360,000</td></tr> </table>	MIF:	US\$1,400,000	FOAL: ²	US\$ 750,000	National organizations:	<u>US\$ 210,000</u>	Total:	US\$2,360,000
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FOAL: ²	US\$ 750,000								
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Total:	US\$2,360,000								
Beneficiaries:	Unemployed blind people in search of work in Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. ³								
Exceptions to Bank policy:	None.								
Program preparation status and duration:	The program was designed with technical support from Fundación de la Organización Nacional de Ciegos Españoles para América Latina [Foundation for Latin America of the National Organization of Blind Spaniards] (FOAL), which is currently helping to establish the steering committees and identify candidates for the positions of executive coordinator. The program will last for three years and the disbursement period is 40 months.								

¹ Typhology is the scientific study of blindness and how to cure it.

² Fundación de la Organización Nacional de los Ciegos Españoles para América Latina [Foundation for Latin America of the National Organization of Blind Spaniards] (FOAL).

³ For the purposes of this program the blind are defined as people who are sightless or who have serious visual impairment or residual vision (field limitation of under 10 degrees).

**Special
contractual
clauses:**

Only the conditions precedent to the first disbursement constitute special contractual clauses: (i) establishment of the steering committees; (ii) placing the implementation manual in effect; and (iii) signature of agreements between the executing agencies and government agencies (see paragraph 9.1).